## **EIS Guidelines**

If it is determined that a project will likely result in a significant adverse impact to the environment that cannot be avoided or reduced by mitigation to a level deemed insignificant, the applicant must prepare an EIS. The EIS must document alternatives to the proposed action with a more extensive evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.

The EIS, like the EA, begins with a descriptive coverpage that briefly provides pertinent information about the proposed project and the applicant. The coverpage contains the following:

- the title and name of the proposed activity;
- DWQ as the lead State Agency, along with the following contact information -

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- the budget code and item number (for state funded projects);
- a list of other cooperating agencies if applicable; and
- a designation of the document as a Draft or Final EIS.

The EIS will describe in greater detail than an EA the project, project area and possible consequences. The contents of the EIS will include the following:

- a summary specifying major conclusions,
- areas of controversy, and further issues to be resolved;
- all federal, state and local permits to be permitted;
- areas of uncertainty that may exist in the permitting process;
- purpose and need for the project;
- a detailed listing of reasonable alternatives to the project including a "no action" with a conclusion supporting the preferred alternative with documentation as follows:
  - comparatively weigh any direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment that could result from each alternative;
  - discuss the reasons for eliminating each of the rejected alternatives;
  - include such mitigation measures as appropriate that were not already included in the alternatives;
  - identify the preferred alternative; and
  - assess the socioeconomic impacts of each alternative, economically quantifiable where possible.

A site map listing all significant resources potentially impacted by the project should also be included.

## Please see 01 NCAC 25 .0603 for EIS format and content requirements.

Please feel free to contact <u>Jackie Roddy</u> ((919) 807-6442) with any questions about document content and formatting.